



## Wisconsin Earn-A-Buck Fact Sheet

Units are only placed into Earn-A-Buck (EAB) status after all other attempts to bring a herd within 20% of over-winter goal have proven unsuccessful. There are opportunities for hunters to earn their buck before the regular gun deer season. Buck authorization can be obtained with an antlerless deer taken on agricultural damage permits or during any open deer season, including archery, October Zone T, 9-day gun, or muzzleloader. Authorization is not weapon specific and can be earned in any Zone T EAB unit. However, as it pertains to CWD units, you can only earn buck authority for CWD units within the CWD management zones. And conversely you can only earn buck authority in non-CWD units outside of the CWD management zones.

### Commonly Asked Questions

#### ***Why does a unit have an Earn-A-Buck season?***

The DNR must manage deer herds close to the goals set in administrative code that consider all of the positive and negative impacts of deer. Many herd reduction methods are utilized in an attempt to keep the deer herd at goal. These include opportunities and incentives such as hunters choice permits, bonus permits, extended seasons, and free tags. However, if these methods do not keep a unit's deer population near goal, we must use EAB regulations as a last resort.

#### ***How long will a unit be in Earn-A-Buck status?***

Hopefully, after one year of EAB, the unit's deer population will be close enough to goal that normal hunting regulations or Zone T will be adequate for herd control. However, if a unit is still well above goal and a Zone T season or abundant bonus tags will not get the unit within 20% of goal, EAB may be recommended for another year.

#### ***How can I earn my buck?***

You can earn authority to harvest a buck during any open deer hunting season within the hunting year. Deer shot during the late archery season or late metro unit hunts **after** January 1<sup>st</sup> will not apply to the following fall's hunting season. Opportunities for earning buck hunting authority exist through harvest of antlerless deer with agricultural damage tag, or during the early and late archery season, October and December Zone T hunts, 10-day muzzleloader season, and the 9-day gun deer season.

Earned buck authority is not weapon-specific. Therefore, you can harvest an antlerless deer with your archery equipment, and earn a buck for the gun season. You could also shoot 2 antlerless during archery season, earning buck authority for both the archery and gun seasons.

#### ***Where do I have to earn my buck?***

You can earn your buck authority in any unit designated as an EAB unit. You do not need to harvest your buck within that same unit, but can do so in another EAB unit. However, you can not earn-a-buck in a non-EAB unit.

#### ***If I shoot an antlerless deer within an Earn-A-Buck unit, during the October or December Zone T hunts, can I shoot a buck during this same season?***

The October and December 4-day Zone T special hunts are antlerless only seasons. You can earn your authority to shoot a buck during this time, but you can't shoot a buck during these seasons. The only time you can shoot a buck would be during the regular 9-day gun deer (with a gun), during the regular archery season (with a bow), or during the 10-Day muzzleloader season (with a muzzleloader).



***Can you earn a buck tag in a CWD EAB unit for a non-CWD EAB unit? And vice versa?***

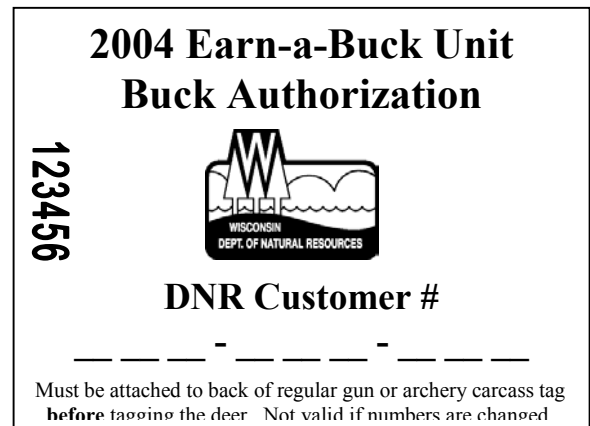
**No.** CWD EAB units are managed separately from all other EAB units. You can only earn buck hunting authority for a CWD unit within the CWD units. Likewise, you can only earn buck authority for non-CWD EAB units in **non-CWD** EAB units.

***Do I have to register an antlerless deer first or can I continue to hunt for a buck once I shoot an antlerless deer?***

You have to **harvest** an antlerless deer before you can earn the authority to shoot a buck. However, you do not need to have the antlerless deer registered before shooting a buck. If you have not previously earned your buck hunting authority, you must shoot an antlerless deer before shooting a buck and the two must be together in the field and in transportation until they are registered.

***How do I tag my buck?***

Upon registering an antlerless deer killed in an EAB unit, you will be given a buck authorization sticker (figure 1). Your customer ID # will be recorded on the sticker. This is **not** an additional tag. Place this sticker on the **back** of your regular carcass tag that you wish to fill a buck with (either archery or gun). You can also keep the sticker separate until you shoot a buck at which time you must attach it to the appropriate carcass tag prior to field dressing or moving the deer in any manner. These carcass tags are the ones that come with your license for use on bucks (not the Zone T or bonus tags). If you have not acquired your sticker yet because you have not registered your antlerless deer, but you have shot and tagged an antlerless deer, tag your buck with your regular license carcass tag (not an antlerless only Zone T tag or bonus antlerless tag) and bring both the antlerless deer and the buck to the registration station.



**Figure 1: Buck Authorization Sticker**

***Do I earn an additional buck tag?***

**No.** You will not be given an additional tag, but rather authority to shoot a buck. This authority will be in the form of a sticker as described above. When shooting an antlerless deer for EAB, make sure to use your antlerless, Zone T or bonus tags to tag your antlerless deer, not your regular carcass tag. However, if you do not plan on shooting any buck deer, your regular gun or archery carcass tag may be used as an antlerless tag in EAB units. Since legally you can harvest only one buck per valid license, you will only be able to earn the authority to take 1 buck with each license type you possess (archery and/or gun). For example, if you shoot 4 antlerless deer and receive 4 buck authorization stickers, you can only shoot 1 buck with your archery license (must use your regular archery license carcass tag with your Buck Authorization sticker attached) and can only shoot or tag 1 buck with your gun license (using your regular gun deer license carcass tag with your Buck Authorization sticker attached).

***What happens if I lose my Earn-A-Buck sticker?***

Since buck authority is not given out through our ALIS system it is the responsibility of the hunter to keep track of their tags. Duplicates **will not** be given out for lost stickers. If you lose your buck hunting authority sticker, you must harvest another antlerless deer to receive an additional Buck Authorization sticker.

***Can I earn a buck for someone else?***

**No.** Each hunter must earn their own buck hunting authorization because the authorization stickers are non-transferable. Under group hunting laws, a hunter may shoot an antlerless deer and have another nearby party member tag it. Upon registration of the deer, the hunter who tagged the deer will get the Buck Authorization sticker with their customer ID# printed on it. Buck Authorization stickers that show the DNR Customer # has been changed or altered are not valid. If the issuing agent makes a mistake on the number while issuing the Buck Authorization sticker, a new sticker should be completed with the correct number and the other sticker destroyed.